



Tempe Public Art



Jason Griffiths

Median Home, 2014

Steel and powder coat

Location: University Drive
Within two medians between
Priest Drive & Farmer Avenue

Artist Website:
www.GinoGriffiths.com

Description: *Median Home* is a sculptural project that supports the idea of urban living. The two sculptures place elements of a small home above a median within University Avenue and have a “sign-like” quality that responds in different ways to their position along the route. The sculpture between Priest and Margo provides an entryway-like image with steps, a front door and a light that reflects its position at the north-west entrance to Tempe. The sculpture between Wilson and Farmer reflects the more residential nature of the locality with its room-like qualities, desk, lamp and chair as simple elements of a small space within the home. The positioning within medians provides views from the street that invite people to consider the importance of residential life within the city. They play a part in Tempe’s move towards greater density along with the landscaping of medians and the inclusion of cycle paths. By placing the small home in the street, the artist suggests that the road must give way to urban life. Densification is the act of looking for niches and small sites to inhabit within a city. *Median Home* is a sign of this intention. Although the room is incomplete, it is experienced in pieces to suggest that the elements of density are in process, yet full density has still not been achieved.

Artist biography: Griffiths gained his professional qualification in Architecture at the Bartlett in the UK where he began teaching in 1994. Griffiths’ built work investigates the relationship between popular culture and architecture. Both his teaching and creative work explores digital fabrication techniques in an innovative investigation of contemporary “ordinary” forms of building. Completed work includes *The Lowest House* in the Mojave Desert, *Siouxland Transit Bus Stops*, *K-Zell Metalworks*, *The Political Ply Shade Canopy*, *Camera Obscura(s)* for Scottsdale Public Art, public art furniture installations for the City of Tempe and an exhibition at *Project Row Houses* in Houston. Griffiths has lectured widely throughout Europe, the US and Mexico and has also taught at the Tech de Monterrey, UT Austin, UNL, Iowa State and ASU. He is currently a lecturer at CAPLA for U of A and has been awarded the 2015 Hyde Chair for Excellence at UNL.

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